

2007 COUNCIL GOALS

I. Goal:

Recognizing that the Kennebec River and downtown area are vital to the City's history, sense of identity and economic vitality, the City of Augusta will work to preserve the historic integrity of the downtown riverfront district and support key development projects in that district.

Objectives:

- A. Council will establish a committee to study adaptive reuse opportunities for the former Statler Tissue Mill properties to report back its findings and recommendations by year end.
- B. Working in partnership with the Capital Riverfront Improvement District (CRID), Council will provide staff and financial support for Phase II improvements of the Mill Park (including a multi-purpose pavilion and children's play area) and will contribute to the administrative support of CRID.
- C. By year end, Council's Flatiron Reuse Advisory Committee will have developed a recommended reuse plan for that building and begun the process of implementing said plan.

II. Goal:

Acknowledging the importance to the City of preserving and expanding critical municipal infrastructure, Council in 2007 will address utility needs to protect water quality, assure public safety, encourage attractive neighborhoods and spur economic development.

Objectives:

- A. Senior staff shall coordinate quarterly joint meetings between the Council and Utility District governing board to discuss and resolve issues of mutual concern.
- B. Within the next six months, subject to Utility Board authorization, District and City staff shall prepare and present to their respective boards a recommended strategy for funding the construction of sewer and water lines to the Riggs Brook Village District.
- C. Council will financially support, and City staff shall oversee, a City-wide study of Fire Department facility needs as recommended by the City's Comprehensive Planning process.
- D. By year-end, incorporate the Augusta Airport Master Plan as part of Augusta's overall Economic Strategic Plan.

III. Goal

Recognizing the importance of open communication between Council, City staff and the general public, and of efficient recordkeeping and policy development, Council shall enhance broadcast quality of Council meetings, implement information tracking processes and more effectively utilize its citizen resources.

Objectives:

- A. By August of 2007, Council shall establish a policy for tracking orders and resolves that it shall adopt.
- B. By September of 2007, Council shall have completed a review of all committees and commissions it has authorized (including the Augusta Development Commission), their charges and memberships, and shall either reaffirm their mission and purpose or cause them to expire.
- C. Within 60 days, senior staff shall develop for Council a program for citizen education regarding the importance of tax increment financing programs for the City of Augusta.

IV. Goal

Respecting the importance of its fiduciary responsibilities, Council shall ensure the fiscal soundness of all of the City's funds, departments and enterprises through active oversight and conservative fiscal management practices.

Objectives:

- A. Subject to approval of the Augusta School Board, Council shall charge the Joint Committee of Council and School Board with serving as the City's Audit Committee in compliance with the recommendations of the City's auditors.
- B. On a quarterly basis, Council shall have as an agenda item at a regular informational meeting a review with the City Manager and Assistant City Manager of the quarterly financial reports of the City's General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, and Enterprise Funds.

V. Goal

Recognizing the importance to the City of proper long-range planning for fiscal stability, environmental preservation, quality of life and economic vitality, the City Council shall commit the time and financial resources necessary to anticipate future needs and resource allocation.

Objectives:

- A. Council shall ensure the timely adoption of a new Comprehensive Master Plan by year end 2007.
- B. By fall of 2007, Council shall evaluate and decide upon a financial strategy with respect to library expansion, including the scheduling of a November 2007 general election referendum.
- C. As part of the 2007-2008 municipal budget process, staff shall propose, and Council shall consider, creative and aggressive new and enhanced revenue sources so as to provide for property tax relief.
- D. Upon appropriate senior staff recommendation, Council shall consider the creation of tax increment financing district plans to:
 - 1. Leverage new valuation from the Augusta Crossing development to fund public improvements that may include storm water abatement and utility expansion to Riggs Brook Village, among others.
 - 2. Leverage new valuation from the Cony/Hannaford development to fund public improvements to Cony Street and immediate neighborhood.
 - 3. Leverage new valuation from the Downtown TIF District to fund public improvements in that district to include, but not be limited to, street reconstruction, Mill Park improvements and administrative support for CRID.
 - 4. Leverage additional TIF sheltered resources for comparable purposes as such opportunities may arise.
- E. The Mayor shall create a committee and charge it with drafting an historic district/demolition delay ordinance for Council consideration by July of 2007.
- F. Throughout 2007, Council will receive workshop presentations on the City's All-Hazards Disaster Preparedness Plan and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and ensure appropriate funding of disaster response materials and training for City staff.

VI. Goal

The Augusta City Council shall take full advantage of opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation and encourage regional cooperation in all areas where mutual benefit can be identified.

Objective:

- A. Through continued support of, and participation in, the Maine Service Center Coalition, the City's elected leadership and senior staff shall, with the assistance of the Augusta Legislative Delegation, seek property tax relief, state and local tax reform, and categorical funding support during the 2007 legislative session.

COUNCIL GOAL SETTING PROCESS

TASKS ASSIGNED TO CITY MANAGER FOR COMPLETION DURING 2007

1. Conduct a workshop on downtown codes development and effect of new parking garage by fall.
2. Conduct an analysis of the various options available with respect to the construction of a “connector” road from Route 3 through to Route 17 or beyond and/or improvements to existing roadways to alleviate increased traffic burden from construction of the third bridge.
3. Remedy handicapped access concerns at Augusta Civic Center upon adoption of 2007-2008 budget.
4. Conduct an analysis of the number of housing units available or needed for low-income residents of Augusta by fall.
5. Report on recommended upgrades to the audio and video systems and improvement to Channel 7 broadcast quality in Council Chambers by July 1st.
6. Schedule presentations throughout the year from the City’s various boards and commissions.
7. Continue outreach by Council and staff to neighborhoods and community groups.
8. Implement complaint tracking software by fall of 2007.
9. Assist Mayor Katz in preparing a review of the City’s Code of Ethics.
10. Develop an investment custodial risk policy for Council adoption by September 1st.
11. Assist the Council sub-committee developing a “Slob Ordinance.”
12. Assist the Conservation Commission to enable it to report to the City Council within 90 days on plan to preserve Sidney Bog.
13. Organize a summit meeting with leaders of surrounding communities to discuss the topic of regionalization (post-budget season).